



## SGT Audie Murphy Club

The Sergeant Audie Murphy Club (SAMC) traces its history to Fort Hood, Texas, and 1986. LTG Crosbie Saint and CSM George Horvath organized the club for the Soldiers of III Corps at Fort Hood. SAMC membership recognizes outstanding Army Noncommissioned Officers, those who exemplify the qualities and virtues of performance and leadership demonstrated by SGT Audie Murphy. In 1991, the Fort Hood Club was expanded to include all of III Corps. Two years later, CSM Richard Cayton transferred to Forces Command. With this transfer, the SAMC was opened to all of Forces Command, including the Reserves and the National Guard. It was not until 1994 that the Sergeant Audie Murphy Club spread Army-wide, with each command retaining the selection process for its own Noncommissioned Officers.

CSM Wilbur Adams organized the U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command chapter at the direction of LTG Joseph Cosumano. Prior to 2002, USASMDC/ARSTRAT Soldiers had to compete within other organizations and only one, SFC Chunka Smith, had succeeded. In contrast, the USASMDC/ARSTRAT board is "tailored to support SMDC's specific and highly unique global mission requirements." The first USASMDC SAMC inductees, SFC Earla Reddock; SFC Phillip Tomlin; SSG Darrick Noah; and SSG Devon Roy, represented all aspects of the command. All USASMDC/ARSTRAT Active and Reserve Component, and National Guard Soldiers in the ranks of corporal through master sergeant are eligible to compete. The four-phased competition begins with the Commander's Nomination/Evaluation Packet, followed by a Performance Test based upon recorded accomplishments of the candidate and subordinates. The third phase is an Initial Selection Board and then the Final Selection Board headed by the command sergeant major. The USASMDC/ARSTRAT chapter, governed by USASMDC regulation 215-7, Apr. 2, 2004, now has over 20 members.



# Audie Murphy

1924 - 1971

**A**udie Leon Murphy was a legend in his own time. He was a war hero, movie actor, writer of country and western songs, and poet. His biography reads more like fiction than fact. He lived only 46 years, but he made a lasting imprint on American History.

Audie was born on a sharecropper's farm in North Texas on June 20, 1924. As a boy, he chopped cotton for one dollar a day and was noted for his feats of dering-do and his accuracy with a gun. He had only five years of schooling and was orphaned at age 16. After being refused enlistment during World War II in both the Marines and Paratroopers for being too small (5'5") and underweight (110 lbs.), he enlisted in the U.S. Army a few days after his 18th birthday.

After basic training at Camp Wolters, Texas, and advanced training at Fort George G. Meade, Md., Audie was sent overseas. He was assigned to the famous 15th Infantry Regiment of the 3rd Infantry Division where he



Medal of Honor citation issued Jan. 26<sup>th</sup> 1945



American Cemetery of War in France (July, 1948). a (deafening) reminder that freedom is never free.

## Dusty Old Helmet

Dusty old helmet, rusty old gun,  
They sit in the corner and wait –  
Two souvenirs of the Second World War  
That have withstood the time, and the hate.

Many times I've wanted to ask them –  
And now that we're here all alone,  
Relics all three of a long ago war –  
Where has freedom gone?

Mute witness to a time of much trouble,  
Where kill or be killed was the law –  
Were these implements used with high honor?  
What was the glory they saw?

Freedom flies in your heart like an eagle.  
Let it soar with the winds high above  
Among the spirits of soldiers now sleeping,  
Guard it with care and with love.

I salute my old friends in the corner.  
I agree with all they have said –  
And if the moment of truth comes tomorrow,  
I'll be free, or By God, I'll be dead!

Audie Murphy

fought in North Africa, Sicily, Italy, France and Germany. He earned a battlefield commission for his courage and leadership ability as well as citations and decorations including every medal for valor that America gives. He was also awarded three French and one Belgian medal. Lt. Audie Murphy was the highest decorated Soldier in American History.

Discharged from the Army on Sept. 21, 1945, Audie went to Hollywood at the invitation of movie star James Cagney. He remained in California for the rest of his life and was closely associated with the movie industry, both as an actor and a producer. He acted in 44 films, starting in 39 of them. His best-known film was "To Hell and Back," adopted from the best selling book of his war experiences by the same name. Most of his movies were westerns. In 1955, Audie Murphy was voted the Most Popular Western Actor in America by the Motion Picture Exhibitors.

Audie wrote the lyrics to 16 country and western songs, the most popular of which was "Shutters and Boards," written with Scott Turner in 1962. The song was recorded by over 30 pop singers, including Jerry Wallace, Dean Martin and Porter Wagoner. He was an accomplished poet; unfortunately only a few of his poems have survived.

In 1950, Audie joined the 36th Infantry Division ("T-Patchers") of the Texas National Guard and served with it until 1966. He was a Mason and a Shriner and belonged to several veterans' organizations.

Audie Murphy was killed in a plane crash on a mountaintop near Roanoke, Virginia, on May 28, 1971. Fittingly, his body was recovered two days later on Memorial Day. Audie could very well be the last American war hero. He was the greatest combat Soldier in the 200-year plus history of the United States. **A**